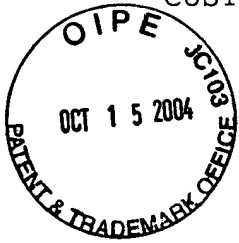


ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 85689.17
CUSTOMER NO. 24347

1

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT
SER. NO. 10/816,777



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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I, Ryan S. Loveless, hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper and fees referred to as being attached or enclosed or actually enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "EXPRESS MAIL POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above, with sufficient postage, and is addressed as follows:

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Ryan S. Loveless
Signature of person mailing paper

In re Application of: Paul A. Vaughan
Serial No.: 10/816,777
Filing Date: April 2, 2004
Group Art Unit: 3732
Examiner: Not Assigned
For: **Vertebral Stabilization Assembly and Method**

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(3), Applicant submits the art listed on the attached Form PTO-1449, along with a copy of the referenced art, and notes that no fees are believed to be

due in connection with this filing. Applicant submits this Information Disclosure Statement in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(3), as Applicant is filing this Information Disclosure Statement before the mailing of a first Office action on the merits.

Applicant respectfully requests, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, that the art listed on the attached PTO-1449 form be considered and cited in the examination of the above-identified application. A copy of this art is enclosed for the convenience of the Examiner. Furthermore, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.97(g) and (h), no representation is made that this art is material to patentability of the present application or that a search has been made.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner, and shall not be construed as a representation that Applicant or Applicant's attorneys have personal knowledge of the contents of the listed art or any events surrounding the listed art.

The Examiner is requested to initial the attached form PTO-1449, as indicated. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner then return to the undersigned a copy of the initialed and completed Form PTO-1449 that indicates the enclosed referenced art has been considered in its entirety.

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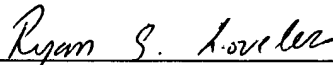
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT
SER. NO. 10/816,777

No fees are believed to be required in connection with the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. To the extent that any further fees, whatsoever, are required, including petition fees, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees, including any under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or 37 C.F.R. § 1.17, to Deposit Account No. 23-3189, Hunton & Williams (Dallas) and reference Attorney Docket No. 85689.17.

Please direct all correspondence to the practitioner listed below at Customer No. 24347.

Respectfully submitted,



Ryan S. Loveless
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ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT
October 15, 2004



FORM PTO-1449

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICEATTY. DOCKET NO.
85689.17SERIAL NO.
10/816,777**LIST OF ART CITED BY APPLICANT**
(Use several sheets if necessary)APPLICANT
Paul A. VaughanFILING DATE
April 2, 2004GROUP
3732**U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	ISSUE DATE	NAME OF INVENTOR	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE (if appropriate)
	4,611,581	Sep. 16, 1986	Arthur D. Steffee	128	69	Dec. 16, 1983
	4,648,388	Mar. 10, 1987	Arthur D. Steffee	128	69	Nov. 1, 1985
	4,655,199	Apr. 7, 1987	Arthur D. Steffee	128	69	Mar. 29, 1985
	4,719,905	Jan. 19, 1988	Arthur D. Steffee	128	69	Dec. 1, 1986
	4,771,767	Sep. 20, 1988	Arthur D. Steffee	128	69	Feb. 3, 1986

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY FILED IN OR PCT	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO

OTHER ART

(Include name of author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of article, title of item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc), date, page(s), volume issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published)

EXAMINER INITIAL	
	U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2004/0193161 A1, published Sept. 30, 2004, entitled <i>Vertebral Stabilization Assembly and Method</i> , Inventor: Paul A. Vaughan; (App. Ser. No. 10/823,418 filed 4/12/04).
EXAMINER SIGNATURE:	DATE CONSIDERED:

*EXAMINER: Please initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Please include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.